

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 HA-05 A-01 OPR-02
OC-06 CCO-00 FBOE-00 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CA-01 L-03 MMO-01 /077 W
-----040906 021258Z /46

R 012002Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS, CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2767

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, ES
SUBJECT: SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0762 AND 2368

I. INTRODUCTION

EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR'S SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MET MAY 30. VISITING SY AGENTS ATTENDED. NOTE WAS TAKEN OF TWO INFORMAL BUT EXPANDED MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE HELD RECENTLY TO DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DEALING WITH ANY PEACEFUL OCCUPATION OF CHANCERY PREMISES (SEE STATE 127466) SUCH AS HAS OCCURRED TO FOUR OTHER LOCAL EMBASSIES. AS ON OTHER RECENT OCCASIONS, AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL SECURITY WAS EXCLUDED FROM COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AS BEING A SPECIAL CASE.

II. GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND SECURITY ATMOSPHERE

A. POLITICAL SITUATION IS TENSE. BOYCOTTED ELECTION OF MARCH 12 DID NOTHING TO RELIEVE INTERNAL PRESSURES.

B. URBAN AND RURAL VIOLENCE HAVE MARKED SCENE SINCE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING AND SEVERAL KIDNAPPINGS

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HAVE OCCURRED.

C. ONE EMBASSY STAFF MEMBER DEPARTED POST UNDER THREAT OF KIDNAPPING.

D. APRIL SAW TERRORIST TARGETTING OF EMBASSY WHICH WARRANTED GENERAL ALERT TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS.

MD E. FOUR LOCAL EMBASSIES WERE OCCUPIED BY SIT-IN FORCES DEMONSTRATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSES.

F. RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS WAS OCCUPIED TWICE FOR SAME REASON.

G. MONTH OF MAY HAS SEEN:

1. NEW WORKING ALLIANCE OF LEFTIST-EXTREMIST FORCES;
2. TWO PROMINENT SALVADORANS KIDNAPPED;
3. JAPANESE BUSINESS KIDNAPPED BY FARN;
 - A. FIRST FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN TAKEN;
 - B. DEATH THREAT IF POLITICAL DEMANDS NOT MET;
4. GOVERNMENT UNDER GREAT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE;
 - A. LOSING PATIENCE;
 - B. US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BLAMED;

H. BUSINESS COMMUNITIES OF US, GERMANY AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY THREATENED.

I. EMBASSY PERSONNEL OF US, GERMANY, JAPAN AND SPAIN HAVE BEEN PRIVATELY IDENTIFIED AS TARGETS.

J. SITUATION IS ALARMING AS WE MOVE INTO JUNE, AND DETERIORATING.

III. RECENT SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN

A. MORE TRAINING SESSIONS BY SY DETAIL FOR EMBASSY LOCAL GUARDS.

B. FURTHER WORK DONE TO UPDATE E&E PLAN.

C. CANVASS OF E&E WARDENS TO CONFIRM CONTINUING AVAILABILITY.

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D. VISIT OF SY MOBILE TRAINING TEAM WITH THREE DAYS OF SESSIONS FOR AMERICAN STAFF AND FAMILIES.

E. POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION TO WASHINGTON ON MEASURES FOR HARDENING UJCESS CONTROLS TO PUBLIC AREAS.

F. DEVELOPMENT OF CONTINGUENCY PLAN, AND ITS APPROVAL BY DEPT, FOR DEALING WITH PEACEFUL SIT-INS BY PERSONS DEMONSTRATING FOR HUMAN-RIGHTS CAUSES.

G. REPLACEMENT, EFFECTIVE MAY 31, OF VISITOR PASSES BY SECRET SERVICE WITHIN EMBASSY.

H. TRANSFER OF CASHIER'S WINDOW TO NEW LOCATION.

8. REPAIR OF EMBASSY RADIO SETS.

IV. PREVIOUSLY AGREED SECURITY MEASURES STILL OUTSTANDING

A. HARDEN ACCESS CONTROLS TO PUBLIC AREAS.

B. BRING E&E PLAN AND WARDEN SYSTEM TO CURRENT STATUS.

C. IMPROVE PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION, RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND UTILIZATION OF LOCAL GUARD FORCE.

D. PROCURE NEW IMPROVED TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

V. RECOMMENDED NEW SECURITY MEASURES

A. ALERT ALL AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO NEED FOR INCREASED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.

B. REQUEST HOST GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PROTECT EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND MEMBERS OF THE RESIDENT AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

C. MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN RESIDENT COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS CURRENT THREAT.

D. OBTAIN AN AUGMENTED SUPPLY OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE PUBLICATION 8884 "COUNTERING TERRORISM" FOR DISTRIBUTION TO EMBASSY STAFF AND AMERICAN RESIDENT COMMUNITY.

E. ESTABLISH EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICE AS CENTRAL FOCAL POINT FOR HANDLING CALLS, INQUIRIES, VISITS, ETC., FROM AMERICAN BUSINESS AND RESIDENT
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COMMUNITY.

F. SCHEDULE EARLY MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE E&E WARDEN SYSTEM.

G. EXPLORE, AND IF POSSIBLE IMPLEMENT, APPARENT OFFICER FROM AID SOURCES OF COMPLETE NEW MOTOROLA SYSTEM WHICH WOULD EQUIP EVERY U.S. CITIZEN STAFF MEMBER WITH OWN RADIO.

VI. CONCLUSION

SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS AGREED UPON NEED FOR ALERTING US MISSION STAFF AND FAMILIES AS WELL AS RESIDENT AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO SECURITY RISKS OF PRESENT MOMENT BUT AT SAME TIME DOING ALL POSSIBLE TO AVOID UNNERVING THEM OR GENERATING A SENSE OF PANIC.

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